price support operation against the estimated total production of 37,000 bales in the State of Tripura i.e. 14.6%. JCI has been purchasing jute as and when prices fall below MSP.

Restructuring of NTC Mills

2907. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government proposed to close non-viable mills, revive viable units and introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for workers in the NTC mills; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard ?

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) On the basis of a viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in mind. VRS is in operation in NTC. 61517 employees have taken VRS till 31-12-99.

Assets held by NHHDC, Guwahati

2908. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a) the net share capital assets and list of immovable properties held by North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation indicating details, release of the share capital, purpose of release and utility made;

(b) whether the Guwahati office of the NHHDC is still maintained in the residential building of a flood prone area since inception or a proposal for outright purchase of an operational office at Guwahati was made; and

(c) if so, the location and detail plan finalised to utilise this operational area indicating action plan to activate this corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total share capital of North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NHHDC) is

Rs. 2 crores which is fully paid-up by the Government of India and was released in seven instalments spread over 17 years. The detail is as under :—

Year of release	Amount
1976-77	Rs. 25,00,000.00
1978-79	Rs. 20,00,000.00
1979-80	Rs. 55,00,000.00
1989-90	Rs. 20,00,000.00
1990-91	Rs. 12,00,000.00
1991-92	Rs. 5,23,500.00
1993-94	Rs. 62,76,500.00
Total	**Rs. 2,00,00,000.00**

The share capital was released for the purpose of increasing the capital base of the corporation and for strengthening its activities. The same was utilised for setting up infrastructure for the corporation and for its emporia at Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Guwahati, Shillong and Delhi, procurement of handloom and handicrafts products and for undertaking marketing activities etc.

The Purbashree Emporium in Calcutta and land of the Dye House in Guwahati are the only immovable properties held in the name of the Corporation.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The present Regional Office of NEHHDC at Guwahati is housed in a rental accommodation at 18 East Bye Lane, Sunderpur, R.G. Baruah Road, Guwahati since June 1992. Prior to that the Regional Office of NEHHDC was located in Bamunimaidan, Guwahati.

A proposal for outright purchase of office accommodation at Bamunimaidan, Guwahati involving a sum of Rs. 104 lakhs has been received by the Government. The said proposal has been received recently and it is premature to take a decision at this stage.

With a view to devising a turn-around strategy for revamping the corporation, the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad has been engaged as consultants for conducting a detailed study of the corporation and for preparing a perspective and corporate plan. Based on their recommendations suitable steps will be taken to make the corporation a viable unit.